

## IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

detecting an occurrence of a predetermined event associated with a standard notification rule that is configured enabling a standard notification rule to generate a first notification,  
upon an occurrence of [[a]] the predetermined event, to a first person in a hierarchy; [[and]]  
determining whether enabling an advanced notification rule associated with the standard notification rule is enabled;

generating the first notification, upon occurrence of the predetermined event, to the first person in the hierarchy if the advanced notification rule is not enabled; and

[[to]] preempting the standard notification rule by suspending the first notification from being generated upon the occurrence such that the first notification is not generated if the advanced notification rule is enabled.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

generating a second notification to a second person in the hierarchy based on the advanced notification rule.

3. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the advanced notification rule includes a scope and wherein the scope of the advanced notification rule is configured by at least one of the group consisting of a company, a satellite, a host assigned to a company, a

service configured on a host for a company, a check type, a host state, a service state, a contact group, and a message pattern.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 where the advanced notification rule is configured to preempt the standard notification rule for a temporary amount of time.

9. (Currently amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the following:

detecting an occurrence of a predetermined event associated with a standard notification rule that is configured ~~enabling a standard notification rule~~ to generate a first notification,

upon an occurrence of [[a]] the predetermined event, to a first person in a hierarchy; [[and]]

determining whether ~~enabling~~ an advanced notification rule associated with the standard notification rule is enabled;

generating the first notification, upon occurrence of the predetermined event, to the first person in the hierarchy if the advanced notification rule is not enabled; and

[[to]] preempting the standard notification rule by suspending the first notification from being generated upon the occurrence such that the first notification is not generated if the advanced notification rule is enabled.

10. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 9 further comprising:  
generating a second notification to a second person in the hierarchy.

11. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 9, wherein the advanced notification rule includes a scope where the scope of the advanced notification rule configured by at least one of the group consisting of a company, a satellite, a host assigned to a company, a service configured on a host for a company, a check type, a host state, a service state, a contact group, and a message pattern.

16. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 9, wherein the advanced notification rule is configured to preempt the standard notification rule for a temporary amount of time.

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for detecting an occurrence of a predetermined event associated with a standard notification rule that is configured~~enabling a standard notification rule~~ to generate a first notification, upon an occurrence of ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined event, to a first person in a hierarchy; ~~[[and]]~~

means for enabling determining whether an advanced notification rule associated with the standard notification rule is enabled;

means for generating the first notification, upon occurrence of the predetermined event, to the first person in the hierarchy if the advanced notification rule is not enabled; and

means for [[to]] preempting the standard notification rule by suspending the first notification from being generated upon the occurrence such that the first notification is not generated if the advanced notification rule is enabled.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:  
means for generating a second notification to a second person in the hierarchy.

19. – 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the advanced notification rule includes a scope and wherein the scope of the advanced notification rule is configured by at least one of the group consisting of a company, a satellite, a host assigned to a company, a service configured on a host for a company, a check type, a host state, a service state, a contact group, and a message pattern.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17 where the advanced notification rule is configured to preempt the standard notification rule for a temporary amount of time.

25. (Currently amended) An digital processing system, comprising:  
a processor configured to detect an occurrence of a predetermined event associated with a standard notification rule that is configured ~~enable a standard notification rule~~ to generate a first notification<sub>i</sub> upon an occurrence of a predetermined event<sub>i</sub> to a first person in a hierarchy, ~~and to enable~~ to determine whether an advanced notification rule associated with

the standard notification rule is enabled, to generate the first notification, upon occurrence of the predetermined event, to the first person in the hierarchy if the advanced notification rule is not enabled, and to preempt the standard notification rule by suspending the first notification from being generated upon the occurrence such that the first notification is not generated if the advanced notification rule is enabled; and

a communications device coupled to the processor to transmit [[the]] notifications.

26. (Currently amended) The digital processing system of claim 25 wherein the communications device is configured to transmit [[the]] a second notification to a second person in the hierarchy based on the advanced notification rule.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The digital processing system of claim 25 where the communications device transmits the first notification to the first person in the hierarchy and the processor acknowledges the first notification.

30. – 40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the advanced notification rule is enabled to preempt the standard notification rule while continuing monitoring for the predetermined event.

42. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 9, wherein the advanced notification rule is enabled to preempt the standard notification rule while continuing monitoring for the predetermined event.

43. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the advanced notification rule is enabled to preempt the standard notification rule while continuing monitoring for the predetermined event.

44. (Previously presented) The digital processing system of claim 25, wherein the processor is configured to enable the advanced notification rule to preempt the standard notification rule while continuing monitoring for the predetermined event.